

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated September 22, 2006. Claims 2, 6, 7, and 27 to 29 are in the application, of which Claim 2 is independent. Claim 27 has been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Non-elected Claims 1 and 8 to 26 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to present these claims in a later-filed divisional application. Claim 2 has been amended, and Claims 28 and 29 have been newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Dudley et al. article (Dudley). Claims 2, 6, and 7 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0051973 (Delenstarr). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claim 2, the at least two probes for external standard nucleic acids are provided in different positions on said substrate as spots by use of an ink-jet method. By virtue of this feature, there is less variation in the amount of a probe formed as a spot on the substrate. As a result, calibration procedures can be simplified, and the accuracy and reproducibility of quantitative analysis can be increased. See, for example, page 5, line 6 to page 6, line 14 of the instant application.

Neither Dudley nor Delenstarr is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

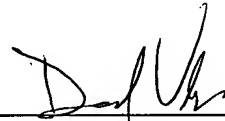
The dependent claims under consideration are also submitted to be

patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to non-elected process Claim 27, rejoinder of this claim is respectfully requested upon the allowance of product Claim 2, pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(b).

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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